

**Hurricane Harvey Response 2017  
Community Liaison (CL) Report**

TO: Janetta Coates and Valmichael Leos

FROM: David Bryan/Jeremy Ford/Devin Pollock/Jim Stevens

SUBJECT: Hurricane Harvey Response 2017

COUNTY: Jasper and Newton Counties

DATE: 9/15/17

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**SUMMARY:**

Today the team traveled to Port Arthur to check in that Area B command post and make them aware of our work in Jasper and Newton counties to operations branch manager, John Frey. He was not aware of Jasper and Newton county work and we were able to fill him on the people affected by the hurricane.

Our visit to touch base with Jasper-Newton-Sabine Emergency Operations Manager Billy Ted Smith revealed that the FEMA Individual Assistance team was in the community room at the Jasper County Courthouse Annex. We talked extensively with the group on what their plans were for the future and were able to determine that the IA team would be signing up residence for aid for three days and FEMA will open a Disaster Recovery Center at the annex on Tuesday or Wednesday. We informed them that we would be returning to work with them at the annex on Sunday and will coordinate what we will be doing going forward. The team is ready to staff it with brochures and flyers already available.

FEMA also informed us that the Newton County Disaster Survivor Assistance will be operating at the Deweyville Senior Center to sign up for assistance under the direction of Bernardo Garcia at 43435 HWY 87 in Orange, Texas.

The opening of the center in Jasper and DSA registration for Deweyville is exciting news and will allow the people of these rural counties to move forward in their recovery from the hurricane. Deweyville was inundated by water until Thursday morning, Sept. 14.

EOM Smith also informed us that mosquito spraying in the county was not completely “off the table” and the Jasper County judge may reconsider.

We also toured several communities in western Jasper County to get a better feel of the population in that area and the impact of the storm. We will be sending the Jasper and Newton

county elected officials a note providing them with key contacts for FEMA activities in the counties.

## **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

The Health Department still would like any information regarding **aerobic treatment systems**. They have questions regarding how to decontaminate systems that failed during the storm and flooding. Does EPA or TCEQ have documents explaining how to get the aerobic systems up and running properly?

## **COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

Debris is still piled along the streets and roads, especially in Deweyville. We have not heard confirmation on whether a contract has been let by the counties to pick up debris. It also does not appear that debris is being segregated from building and construction debris. Several churches and schools had large piles of debris and people still working to clean out the buildings. We also saw a number of gas stations and businesses that remain closed.

Roads, bridges and infrastructure continues to be a concern in both counties with many of the roads that are normally used for school bus routes in need of drastic repair after being washed out by extensive flooding.

As always, thanks for listening and your possible attention to these issues.

David, Jim, Jeremy and Devin